

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

- 1.-43. (Cancelled)
44. (Previously presented) A method for isolating a defined and consistent amount of DNA from multiple samples comprising:
 - (a) selecting a defined amount of DNA to be isolated from the samples;
 - (b) choosing a discrete amount of a silica-containing solid support necessary to isolate the defined amount of DNA from each sample;
 - (c) contacting each sample with the discrete amount of the silica-containing solid support, each sample comprising DNA in excess of the binding capacity of the discrete amount of silica-containing solid support, under conditions that allow reversible binding of the defined amount of DNA to the solid support; and
 - (d) separating each sample from the support to isolate a defined and consistent amount of DNA from each sample.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising:
 - (e) separating the DNA of step (d) from the support.
46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the silica-containing solid support comprises silica magnetic particles.
47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the silica magnetic particles are porous.
48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the silica magnetic particles are nonporous.
49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the silica magnetic particles are siliceous-oxide coated magnetic particles.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the conditions comprise the presence of a chaotropic salt.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the chaotropic salt comprises guanidine thiocyanate.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the DNA is genomic DNA.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the DNA is plasmid DNA.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising analyzing the defined amount of DNA of step (d).

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 wherein the sample comprises a solid support.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55 wherein the solid support of the sample is paper.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein the solid support of the sample is a swab.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the sample is a forensic sample.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein the sample is contacted with a chaotropic salt.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the contacted sample is heated to a temperature of from about 60° to about 100°C.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising determining at least a portion of the sequence of the isolated DNA.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising washing the solid support prior to step (e).

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the solid support is washed with a solution comprising an alcohol and a salt.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA of step (e) is separated by eluting with water.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the concentration of chaotropic salt is between about 0.1 M and 7 M.

66. (Currently amended) A method of isolating DNA from multiple samples for use in a molecular biological procedure comprising:

- (a) selecting a defined amount of DNA to be isolated from the samples;
- (b) choosing a discrete amount of a silica-containing solid support necessary to isolate the defined amount of DNA from each sample;
- (c)a) contacting each sample with a discrete amount of a silica-containing solid support, each sample comprising DNA in excess of the binding capacity of the discrete amount of silica-containing solid support, under conditions that allow reversible binding of the defined amount of DNA to the solid support; and
- (d)b) eluting bound DNA of step (c)a) to isolate a defined and consistent amount of DNA from each sample, wherein the eluted DNA is suitable for use in the molecular biological procedure.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the molecular biological procedure includes analysis of at least one DNA sequence comprising at least one short tandem repeat sequence.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the at least one short tandem repeat sequence comprises the Combined DNA Index System loci.

69. (Previously presented) A kit for isolating a defined and consistent amount of a DNA from multiple samples according to claim 44, the kit comprising:

silica magnetic particles, a discrete amount of which is used with each sample, the discrete amount having the capacity to reversibly bind a defined amount of the DNA from each sample, the samples comprising DNA in excess of the binding capacity of the discrete amount of silica magnetic particles.

70. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 69 wherein the sample comprises blood.

71. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 69, wherein the sample comprises a solid support.

72. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 69, further comprising a chaotropic salt.

73. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 69, wherein the silica magnetic particles are provided in a solution comprising the chaotropic salt.

74. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 69 further comprising a wash solution.

75. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 69, wherein the silica magnetic particles are siliceous oxide-coated magnetic particles.

76. (Previously presented) A kit for isolating a defined and consistent amount of DNA from multiple samples according to claim 66, the kit comprising, silica magnetic particles, a discrete amount of which is used with each sample, the discrete amount having the capacity to reversibly bind a defined amount of the DNA from each sample, the samples comprising DNA in excess of the binding capacity of the discrete amount of silica magnetic particles.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the procedure is a DNA amplification reaction.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the procedure is a DNA sequencing reaction.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the procedure is a DNA nucleic acid hybridization.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the DNA of step (d) is eluted in a discrete volume to provide a solution having a defined DNA concentration suitable for use in the procedure without separate quantification.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the DNA concentration is from about 0.5 ng/ μ l to about 5.0 ng/ μ l and the procedure is a DNA amplification reaction.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the defined and consistent amount of DNA isolated is within 60% to 229% of the mean amount of DNA isolated from the samples.